



THE WHITE HOUSE

"The tasks before us are enormous, but so is the heart of America. In America, we do not abandon our fellow citizens in their hour of need... We have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters all along the Gulf Coast, and we will not rest until we get this right and the job is done."

President George W. Bush
Radio Address by the President to the Nation
September 3, 2005

- **The President Has Called On All Americans To Help Those In Need As A Result Of Katrina.** The extent of destruction has resulted in an outpouring of charitable giving to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Rebuilding the Gulf Coast will take time – and the resources of the American people and the Federal government will ensure that this area will once again be vibrant and full of life.
- **Americans Should Make Cash Donations.** At this stage in the recovery, the most effective way people can help the victims of Hurricane Katrina is by making cash donations. The President announced a nationwide charitable fundraising effort to be led by former President George H.W. Bush and former President Bill Clinton to aid the Gulf Coast victims of Hurricane Katrina. The former presidents are featured in several public service ads that direct Americans to visit www.usafreedomcorps.gov where they can find information on the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, state relief funds in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and other humanitarian organizations providing a wide variety of services in the affected area.
- **Volunteers Should Not Report Directly.** As recovery and relief efforts begin to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in Gulf Coast states, well-meaning volunteers are being urged not to report directly to the affected areas unless directed by a volunteer agency. It's important that volunteer response is coordinated by the professionals who can direct volunteers with the appropriate skills to the hardest-hit areas where they are needed most. Self-dispatched volunteers and especially sightseers can put themselves and others in harm's way and hamper rescue efforts. Volunteers associated with a recovery or relief organization should call their point of contact for information.
- **Volunteer In Your Own Community.** At this stage in the recovery, the best place for Americans to volunteer is in their own backyards. Find local opportunities in your community such as food drives, clothing collections or fundraisers, or visit www.usafreedomcorps.gov to find contact information for your local volunteer center.
- **Volunteers Should Be Patient.** Please be patient and allow the professional first-responders and aid workers to do their job. In the coming weeks, months and years, there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer and engage in ongoing relief efforts in the Gulf Coast region. Please visit www.usafreedomcorps.gov regularly to find opportunities to engage in ongoing relief efforts and prepare for future disasters.

USA Freedom Corps Overview:

President Bush created USA Freedom Corps (US AFC) to build on the countless acts of service, sacrifice, and generosity that followed September 11th. When he announced US AFC in his 2002 State of the Union Address, President Bush called on all Americans to commit their lives to serve a cause greater than themselves. As a White House office, US AFC is charged with promoting a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America. US AFC promotes and expands volunteer service in America by supporting Federal service programs, serving as a resource for non-profits, recognizing volunteers, and helping to connect individuals with volunteer organizations in their communities.

COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT: Alyssa J. McClenning ? 202-456-7345 ? amcclenning@who.eop.gov

www.usafreedomcorps.gov